

# East County Intercom



**Isiah Leggett, County Executive**

**Timothy Firestone, Chief Administrative Officer**

**Anise Key Brown, Director**

**Kim Bobola, ECCAB Chair**

Newsletter

August 2007

## Community Responds to Apartment Fire Tragedy



In the wake of the June 28th apartment fire that claimed the lives of 3 very young children and their mother, the County Government and the East County community responded compassionately to assist the family with this devastating loss. The Regional Center immediately set up a Community Crisis Fund at the nearby Commerce bank to consolidate all donations. The Red Cross was mobilized, along with counselors from the County's Crisis Center, to assist with neighbors and family members in need.

In response to the plea for assistance, the Regional Services Center received an anonymous donation of 4 cemetery plots, and many, many phone calls with additional charitable offers. As of press time, donations were still being received and a full tally was not yet available.



County Executive Isiah Leggett speaks at vigil on July 5th, 2007. Jef Frederick, Property Manager, stands in the background

In order to facilitate a June 14th funeral for the 3 children, the County had to guarantee payment for funeral and cemetery services, in anticipation that enough funds would be raised. The focus since the 14<sup>th</sup> was to try to accommodate the Family's wishes and send mother Elsie Nuka to Cameroon for burial, as is their custom. Through the generosity of businesses, civic organizations and individual residents of East County, we have accomplished the goal of raising all of the funds needed.

***On behalf of the Nuka & Foncham families and the County Government, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to all who contributed to this truly community wide crisis.***

## Community Day at Windsor Court

On June 28, 2007, the Windsor Court and Tower Family suffered a devastating tragedy when three little children lost their lives in a terrible apartment fire. In remembrance of this tragedy, on **Saturday, August 4, 2007**, Windsor Court & Tower Apartments will be hosting "**Community Day - A Time to Heal.**" A "Celebration of Life" service will be held at 11:00 am, honoring the children and their mother, who also lost her life. **This will be an all-day, family-oriented event, open to the entire community**, featuring food, rides and amusements, dance and art shows, a basketball tournament, prizes, information on community services, and much more. Music and performances will be provided by local talent. **Windsor Court & Tower Apartments, 13802 Castle Blvd., Silver Spring. For additional information call 301-890-6110.**

## Ride On Begins New Bus Service Along U.S. Route 29

New Ride On bus service began last month in the eastern part of Montgomery County. Ride On Route 21 provides bus service to some areas of the County that previously had no public transportation. The new Route 21 will run **between the Briggs Chaney Park and Ride lot and the Silver Spring Metro**, providing service to Fairland, the Tamarack Triangle, Dumont Oaks and Four Corners. Portions of Tamarack Triangle and Dumont Oaks are new service areas that are not currently being served. Operating Monday through Friday every 30 minutes, the service will run south during morning rush hours and north during evening rush hours. For more information about Route 21 or other Ride On routes, go to the [Division of Transit Service's website](#) or call the Transit Information Center at 240-777-RIDE.



## EVENTS HELD AT THE EASTERN MONTGOMERY REGIONAL SERVICES CENTER

### East County Apartment Managers Program



Over twenty-five apartment managers and guests attended a luncheon meeting in July for East County Apartment managers, hosted by the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center. The topic for the meeting was **Neighborhood Family & Youth Services**. Representatives came from the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Recreation, Montgomery County Gang and Violence Prevention Program, and the Department of Police 3<sup>rd</sup> District.

The meeting sought to address concerns expressed by apartment managers regarding crime, unoccupied teens, and families in crisis. Speakers highlighted community services available that could improve the welfare of the apartment communities as well as what is being done to prevent crime and other adverse

circumstances. Among the specific topics were rental assistance, emergency services, youth and family recreational activities, crime suppression strategies, and outreach to youth-at-risk.

### AARP Driver Training Course

On Saturday July 7<sup>th</sup>, the Center hosted another in a series of AARP Senior driving training courses. The all day course was attended by approximately 35 residents who all said they preferred this one day format versus the 2, four hour sessions which the typical format for this course. **East County resident John Nash is the course instructor, who takes what is normally some pretty dry material, and turns it into a lively interactive session for the students in the class.**

The AARP Driver Safety Program is the nation's first and largest refresher course for drivers age 50 and older that has helped millions of drivers remain safe on today's roads. AARP has offered the course in the classroom for 25 years.

[Find more details.](#) The next scheduled Driver Training course at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Center is scheduled for **Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**, from 9:00 to 5:00 pm. Call 240 777-8400 for more information.

## CURRENT ON-GOING EVENTS AT THE CENTER

### Community Yard Sale

The second community yard sale, held on Saturday, July 21, 2007 from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center Park and Ride lot, was another *big success!* Close to ninety five vendors arrived at 7:00 am to register and set up their tables. The parking lot was fully booked and the crowd again had much fun buying and selling “treasures.” The sale consisted of items such as antiques, toys, books, clothes, shoes, jewelry, household goods – furniture, kitchenware, carpet/rugs, health products, etc. The EMRSC will **continue** this great community-wide event until October, 2007 (*weather permitting*).

Spaces for selling your goods and treasures are rented @ \$10.00 for one space, \$15.00 for two spaces, \$25.00 for three spaces, etc. (*Chairs and tables are not provided.*) Proceeds from the parking spaces for August and September are donated to **The People's Community and Wellness Center (TPCWC).**

Please contact the Center at 240-777-8411 to reserve your space for the upcoming and exciting community yard sale scheduled on **August 18<sup>th</sup> 2007**. *Thanks to all for their participation and supporting this event!*



### Employment Services Offered in East County

The Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center, in cooperation with the Montgomery Works Career Development Center, continues to provide employment assistance on the **third Thursday of each month**. The next day to receive assistance at the Center, located at 3300 Briggs Chaney Road in Silver Spring, is **August 16th, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm**. Individuals can get help with skill assessments; resume writing, interviewing, career planning, networking and using computers to find job opportunities. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call 240-777-8400.

*Meeting and conference room space is available for community use. The rooms have wireless internet connectivity, several wall-mounted projector screens and can seat from 20 to 70 persons. To reserve space, call the CUPF agency at 240 777-2706*

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN EAST COUNTY

### East County to Hold Solar Car Derby

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), in conjunction with the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center, will hold a Solar Car Derby on **Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** This event is free and will be held at the **Regional Service Center, 3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring.** The derby is aimed at **children ages 8 through 14** and includes assembly of a functional model solar powered car which the students can take home. Clean energy information and educational materials will also be provided. The event will conclude with a race, weather permitting, of the solar "speeders." *Spectators are welcome!*



**Participants must pre-register** for this event and be accompanied by a parent or guardian who is a Montgomery County resident. Participation will be limited to 15 students and attendees must arrive no later than 1:00 p.m. To register, parents should **call Eric R. Coffman, DEP Senior Energy Planner, at 240-777-7754 or [eric.coffman@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:eric.coffman@montgomerycountymd.gov).**



### Free Evening ESOL Classes Start Sept at Eastern Regional Services Center

The Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center, in partnership with the Chinese Culture and Community Center and the African Immigrant & Refugee Foundation, will host daytime and evening ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes for adults. Classes will be held on **Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm beginning Sept. 11 (Intermediate level)**, and on **Friday evenings from 6-8:30 pm beginning September 14 (Beginner and Intermediate levels)**. The classes are open to anyone wishing to learn or improve their English speaking skills. The classes are free, however a \$10 refundable deposit and \$18 book fee are required. The center is located at 3300 Briggs Chaney Road in Silver Spring. To sign up for a class or to receive more information, **call 240-777-8400.**



## MEET YOUR COUNTY

This is a series of articles describing services in Eastern Montgomery

### Who

**MONTGOMERY WORKS** - a one-stop center for Montgomery County's employers and job seekers provides on-site services to East County residents on the **third Thursday** of each month at the **Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center, 3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring**

### Mission

To ensure that job seekers are well-prepared, educated and adaptable, and that businesses are provided with tools and resources to meet their current and future needs.

### Services

#### Core Services

- Job search assistance
- Access to the Maryland Workforce Exchange
- Eligibility determination
- Job matching and referral
- Career resource library
- Local labor market information
- Internet access
- Phones, fax, and copier use
- Computer lab
- Information on unemployment Insurance
- On-site recruiting office for employers

#### Intensive Services

- Eligibility verification
- Individual career counseling
- Case management
- Development of an indiv. employment plan
- Intensive job search workshops
- Pre-vocational or placement services
- Follow-up
- Basic skills and work history assessment
- Career aptitude and interest assessment
- Supportive services
- Pre-screening and testing job candidates

Montgomery Works offers Individualized training programs to qualified job-seekers, such as pre-vocational & on-the-job training opportunities. Eligible employers can also apply for grants to train current employees.

### Other Important Facts

### Contact

For more information, call 240-777-8400



**East County Citizens  
Advisory Board (ECCAB)**

*Guests are invited to attend the  
East County Citizens Advisory  
Board meetings and encouraged to  
ask questions & provide comments.*

**Our next ECCAB meeting will be  
held on *Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2007*  
*at 7:15pm* at the  
Eastern Montgomery Regional  
Services Center**

For questions please contact :  
Tel (240) 777-8400  
TTY (240) 777-8418

**Eastern Montgomery Regional  
Services Center**

**Anise Key Brown, Director  
3300 Briggs Chaney Road,  
Silver Spring, MD 20904**

**Tel (240) 777-8400 /Fax (240) 777-  
8410  
TTY/TTD (240) 777-8418**

**[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/eastco](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/eastco)  
[eastco.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:eastco.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov)  
[md.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/eastco)**

**East County Intercom**

**The People's Community Wellness Clinic**

Primary Health Care Clinic for  
uninsured and underinsured adults.

**Call 301-847-1172 for appointments**

**Monday–Friday  
9 am – 4 pm**

**Health & Human Services**

**Department of Health & Human  
Services**

East County Regional Office  
3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver  
Spring, MD 20904

*Serving Zip codes: 20903, 20904,  
20905, 20866, 20868.*



**Police Third District – Briggs Chaney Substa-**

A community Police substation is located in  
our building at 3300 Briggs Chaney Rd.

For assistance, please call:  
**(240) 773-5800.**

The main Police station for our area is:  
Silver Spring Police Station,  
801 Sligo Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910  
**(301) 565-7744**

Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center  
3300 Briggs Chaney Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20904  
Phone: 240-777-8400 / Fax: 240-777-8410  
e-mail: [eastco.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:eastco.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov)  
web : <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/eastco>

